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cond. elongated tract and said guide groove comprises a corresponding elongated groove for receiving the elongated tract.--

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 12 have been amended and claims 13-16 have been added. Claims 1, 3-5, 9, 12 and 13-16 are pending, with claims 1, 12 and 13 being in independent form.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicant's undersigned attorney during the personal interview conducted on March 7, 2003. During that interview, various aspects of the present disclosure were discussed.

In the Office Action dated January 14, 2003, Claims 1, 3-5, 9 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious from U.S. Patent 5,245,361 to Kashimura et al. in view of U.S. Patent 4,931,841 to Cowger et al. Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submits independent claims 1 and 12 are patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

As discussed during the interview and as tentatively agreed to by the Examiner, Applicant finds no teaching or suggestion in the cited art of a recording head unit including a first guide member for connecting the recording head unit to an ink reservoir unit, the ink reservoir unit including a second guide member for mating with the first guide member and guiding the ink reservoir onto the recording head unit so that the ink reservoir can be aligned with and removably mounted to the recording head unit.

Accordingly, Applicant submits the present claims are patentable over the cited art.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in

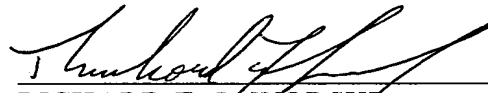
connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition, and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite fees to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Entry of this amendment and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



RICHARD F. JAWORSKI

Reg. No.33,515

Attorney for Applicant

Cooper & Dunham LLP

Tel.: (212) 278-0400

COPY SHOWING CHANGES BEING MADE TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 12 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A recording head of an inkjet recording apparatus for recording an image on an object, comprising:

a recording head unit supplied with ink for recording an image on a recording object by

forming a jet of the ink, said recording head unit comprising:

a nozzle for ejecting said jet;

a passage of ink provided in communication with said ink nozzle for supplying said ink to said nozzle;

an energization part provided on said passage for applying energy to said ink in said passage to form said jet; and

an ink inlet formed in communication with said passage for receiving said ink, said inlet including therein filter means which is made from stainless steel mesh for eliminating particles from said ink supplied to said inlet; and

an ink reservoir unit for holding therein said ink, said ink reservoir supplying said ink held therein to said inlet of said recording head part, said ink reservoir accommodating therein a sponge material infiltrated with said ink;

said recording head unit including a first guide member [carrying thereon first connection means as a part of said recording head unit,] for connecting said recording head unit to said ink reservoir unit;

said ink reservoir unit including a second guide member for mating with the first guide member and guiding the ink reservoir onto said recording head unit so that said ink reservoir can be aligned with and removably mounted to [carrying thereon second connection means corresponding to said first connection means as a part of said ink reservoir unit, for connecting said ink reservoir unit to] said recording head unit;

said first and second connection means being so formed that said first and second connection means establish, when said ink reservoir unit is mounted upon said recording head unit, a detachable engagement with each other in a manner, such that said ink in said reservoir unit flows to said passage in said recording head unit; and

a carriage member constructed so as to be mounted upon an image recording apparatus for carrying thereon said recording head unit and said reservoir unit together detachably in the state that said recording head unit and said reservoir unit are connected with each other detachably such that said reservoir unit connected to said recording head unit is removable therefrom, said carriage member having a positioning part for determining a position of said nozzle of said recording head unit with respect to said carriage member, and wherein said ink reservoir carrying a vent;

said recording head unit having a positioning part for engagement with said positioning part of said carriage member,

said recording head unit carrying thereon electrode contacts.

12. (Twice Amended) A method for recording an image on an object by means of an inkjet recording apparatus, said inkjet recording apparatus including a recording head unit carrying thereon an ink nozzle for forming an inkjet and a first guide member and an ink reservoir for storing ink with a sponge material, said ink reservoir including a second guide member for mating with the first guide member, said ink reservoir being so constructed as to be mounted upon said recording head unit detachably therefrom via said first and second guide members and carrying a vent closed by a seal member, said recording head unit carrying a stainless mesh filter on an inlet of said ink, said recording head unit including a positioning part for positioning said recording head unit on a carriage, and electrode contacts, said method comprising the steps of:

detachably mounting said ink reservoir upon said recording head unit by sliding the

first and second guide members with respect to each other so that said ink reservoir can be aligned with and removably mounted to said recording head unit and such that the ink in said ink reservoir is supplied to said recording head unit;

mounting said recording head unit and ink reservoir on said carriage such that said positioning part of said recording head unit engages a positioning part of said carriage for positioning said recording head unit with respect to said carriage such that electrical contact is made between said electrode contacts on said recording head unit and electrode contacts on said carriage; and

removing said seal member such that an interior space of said ink reservoir communicates directly with an exterior of said ink reservoir via said vent.

Please add claims 13-16 as follows:

--13. (New) A recording head for an inkjet recording apparatus for recording an image on an object, comprising:

a recording head unit supplied with ink for recording an image on a recording object by

forming a jet of the ink, said recording head unit comprising:

a nozzle for ejecting said jet,

a passage of ink provided in communication with said ink nozzle for
supplying said ink to said nozzle,

a first guide member,

an energization part provided in said passage for applying energy to said
ink in said passage to form said jet, and

an ink inlet formed in communication with said passage for receiving
said ink; and

an ink reservoir unit for holding therein said ink, and comprising a second guide

member for mating with said first guide member and guiding the ink reservoir
onto said recording head unit so that said ink reservoir can be aligned with and
removably mounted to said recording head unit.

14. (New) A recording head as recited in claim 13, wherein said first guide member comprises a guide rail and said second guide member comprises a guide groove corresponding to and for receiving said guide rail.

15. (New) A recording head as recited in claim 14, wherein said guide rail is slidably mountable in said guide groove.

16. (New) A recording head as recited in claim 4, wherein said guide rail comprises an elongated tract and said guide groove comprises a corresponding elongated groove for receiving the elongated tract.--